

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Application No. To be assigned
Divisional of 09/042,642

Attorney Docket No. Q64221

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-6, 8, 12-14, and 16-17 are canceled.

The claims are amended as follows:

B¹²
7. (Amended) A pneumatic tire according to claim 19, further comprising another sipe substantially parallel to the contour line at the trailing edge of the ground-contact configuration and is inclined opposite said tire primary rotational direction as the another sipe extends toward the axial direction outer-side of the tire, said another sipe being formed in a trailing edge region of each of blocks adjacent to and at tire transverse direction inner sides of the blocks at the shoulder sides of said pneumatic tire.

sub B¹³
9. (Amended) A pneumatic tire according to claim 18, wherein said sipe is formed in a tire transverse direction inner side of each of the blocks at the shoulder sides.

10. (Amended) A pneumatic tire according to claim 19, wherein said sipe and said second sipe are formed in a tire transverse direction inner side of each of the blocks at the shoulder sides.

11. (Amended) A pneumatic tire having a tread pattern including a plurality of blocks defined by a plurality of circumferential direction grooves extending substantially along a tire circumferential direction and a plurality of transverse direction grooves extending substantially along a tire transverse direction, wherein a sipe, which is inclined opposite a tire primary rotating direction as the sipe extends toward the axial direction outer-side of the tire, is formed in a trailing edge region of selected blocks of the plurality of blocks, and wherein said sipe is substantially parallel to a tangent line that is tangent to a contour line at a trailing edge at a ground-contact configuration.

B¹⁴ sub B¹⁵
15. (Amended) A pneumatic tire according to claim 11, further comprising a another sipe, which is inclined opposite the tire primary rotating direction as the another sipe

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extends toward the axial direction outer-side of the tire, said another sipe formed in each of blocks which are adjacent to and at tire transverse direction inner sides of the blocks at the shoulder sides of said pneumatic tire.

Please add the following new claims:

18. (New) A pneumatic tire having a tread pattern including a plurality of blocks defined by a plurality of circumferential direction grooves extending substantially along a tire circumferential direction and a plurality of transverse direction grooves extending substantially along a tire transverse direction, wherein a sipe formed in a region at a trailing edge of each of blocks at shoulder sides of said pneumatic tire among the plurality of blocks, wherein both said sipe and a contour line at a trailing edge of a ground-contact configuration are inclined opposite a tire primary rotation direction as the sipe extends toward the axial direction outer-side of the tire, said sipe and said contour line are substantially parallel to each other at a same axial distance from an equatorial plane of the tire.

19. (New) A pneumatic tire having a tread pattern including a plurality of blocks defined by a plurality of circumferential direction grooves extending substantially along a tire circumferential direction and a plurality of transverse direction grooves extending substantially along a tire transverse direction, wherein a sipe is formed in a region at a trailing edge of each of blocks at shoulder sides of said pneumatic tire among the plurality of blocks, the sipe and a line tangent to a contour line at a trailing edge of a ground-contact configuration being inclined opposite a tire primary rotation direction as the sipe extends toward the axial direction outer-side of the tire, and being substantially parallel to each other at a same axial distance from an equatorial plane of the tire.